

## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Aviation Administration**

#### **14 CFR Part 39**

**[Docket No. FAA-2010-0457; Directorate Identifier 2010-CE-019-AD; Amendment 39-16371; AD 2010-15-05]**

**RIN 2120-AA64**

#### **Airworthiness Directives; Aircraft Industries a.s. Model L 23 Super Blanik Gliders**

**AGENCY:** Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Final rule.

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**SUMMARY:** We are superseding an existing airworthiness directive (AD) for the products listed above. This AD results from mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by an aviation authority of another country to identify and correct an unsafe condition on an aviation product. The MCAI describes the unsafe condition as:

Cracks on the stabilizer elevator inner hinges of seven L 23 SUPERBLANÍK sailplanes have been detected during an inspection.

This condition, if not corrected, could result in no longer retaining the elevator in place and in jamming of the Pilot's elevator control system, and subsequent loss of elevator control.

We are issuing this AD to require actions to correct the unsafe condition on these products.

**DATES:** This AD becomes effective August 30, 2010.

As of April 26, 2010 (75 FR 17295, April 6, 2010), the Director of the Federal Register approved the incorporation by reference of Aircraft Industries, a.s. Mandatory Bulletin MB No.: L23/052a, dated March 2, 2010, listed in this AD.

**ADDRESSES:** You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> or in person at the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, M-30, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Greg Davison, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, ACE-112, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4130; fax: (816) 329-4090.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

### **Discussion**

We issued a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) to amend 14 CFR part 39 to include an AD that would apply to the specified products. That NPRM was published in the Federal Register on April 29, 2010 (75 FR 22543), and proposed to supersede AD 2010-08-01, Amendment 39-16256 (75 FR 17295; April 6, 2010). That NPRM proposed to correct an unsafe condition for the specified products. The MCAI states that:

Cracks on the stabilizer elevator inner hinges of seven L 23 SUPERBLANK sailplanes have been detected during an inspection.

This condition, if not corrected, could result in no longer retaining the elevator in place and in jamming of the Pilot's elevator control system, and subsequent loss of elevator control.

For the reasons stated above, this Emergency AD requires the inspection of the elevator inner hinges, and the accomplishment of the relevant corrective actions as necessary.

### **Comments**

We gave the public the opportunity to participate in developing this AD. We received no comments on the NPRM or on the determination of the cost to the public.

### **Conclusion**

We reviewed the available data and determined that air safety and the public interest require adopting the AD as proposed.

### **Differences Between This AD and the MCAI or Service Information**

We have reviewed the MCAI and related service information and, in general, agree with their substance. But we might have found it necessary to use different words from those in the MCAI to ensure the AD is clear for U.S. operators and is enforceable. In making these changes, we do not intend to differ substantively from the information provided in the MCAI and related service information.

We might also have required different actions in this AD from those in the MCAI in order to follow FAA policies. Any such differences are highlighted in a Note within the AD.

### **Costs of Compliance**

We estimate that this AD will affect 103 products of U.S. registry. We also estimate that it will take about 2 work-hours per product to comply with the basic requirements of this AD. The average labor rate is \$85 per work-hour.

Based on these figures, we estimate the cost of this AD to the U.S. operators to be \$17,510 or \$170 per product.

In addition, we estimate that any necessary follow-on actions would take about 4 work-hours and require parts costing \$500, for a cost of \$840 per product. We have no way of determining the number of products that may need these actions.

### **Authority for This Rulemaking**

Title 49 of the United States Code specifies the FAA's authority to issue rules on aviation safety. Subtitle I, section 106, describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. "Subtitle VII: Aviation Programs," describes in more detail the scope of the Agency's authority.

We are issuing this rulemaking under the authority described in "Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart III, Section 44701: General requirements." Under that section, Congress charges the FAA with promoting safe flight of civil aircraft in air commerce by prescribing regulations for practices, methods, and procedures the Administrator finds necessary for safety in air commerce. This regulation is within the scope of that authority because it addresses an unsafe condition that is likely to exist or develop on products identified in this rulemaking action.

### **Regulatory Findings**

We determined that this AD will not have federalism implications under Executive Order 13132. This AD will not have a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government.

For the reasons discussed above, I certify this AD:

- (1) Is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866;
- (2) Is not a "significant rule" under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034, February 26, 1979); and
- (3) Will not have a significant economic impact, positive or negative, on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

We prepared a regulatory evaluation of the estimated costs to comply with this AD and placed it in the AD Docket.

### **Examining the AD Docket**

You may examine the AD docket on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>; or in person at the Docket Management Facility between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The AD docket contains the NPRM, the regulatory evaluation, any comments received, and other information. The street address for the Docket Office (telephone (800) 647-5527) is in the ADDRESSES section. Comments will be available in the AD docket shortly after receipt.

### **List of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 39**

Air transportation, Aircraft, Aviation safety, Incorporation by reference, Safety.

### **Adoption of the Amendment**

Accordingly, under the authority delegated to me by the Administrator, the FAA amends 14 CFR part 39 as follows:

### **PART 39—AIRWORTHINESS DIRECTIVES**

1. The authority citation for part 39 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g), 40113, 44701.

**§ 39.13 [Amended]**

2. The FAA amends § 39.13 by removing Amendment 39-16256 (75 FR 17295; April 6, 2010) and adding the following new AD:



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**2010-15-05 Aircraft Industries a.s.:** Amendment 39-16371; Docket No. FAA-2010-0457; Directorate Identifier 2010-CE-019-AD.

**Effective Date**

- (a) This airworthiness directive (AD) becomes effective August 30, 2010.

**Affected ADs**

- (b) This AD supersedes AD 2010-08-01, Amendment 39-16256.

**Applicability**

- (c) This AD applies to Aircraft Industries a.s. Model L 23 Super Blanik Gliders, all serial numbers, certificated in any category.

**Subject**

- (d) Air Transport Association of America (ATA) Code 55: Stabilizers.

**Reason**

- (e) The mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) states:

Cracks on the stabilizer elevator inner hinges of seven L 23 SUPERBLANÍK sailplanes have been detected during an inspection.

This condition, if not corrected, could result in no longer retaining the elevator in place and in jamming of the Pilot's elevator control system, and subsequent loss of elevator control.

For the reasons stated above, this Emergency AD requires the inspection of the elevator inner hinges, and the accomplishment of the relevant corrective actions as necessary.

**Actions and Compliance**

- (f) Unless already done, do the following actions:

(1) Before further flight as of April 6, 2010 (the effective date of AD 2010-08-01), inspect the elevator inner hinges on the stabilizer following paragraphs A.1., A.2., and A.4. of Aircraft Industries, a.s. Mandatory Bulletin MB No.: L23/052a, dated March 2, 2010.

(2) Repetitively thereafter at intervals not to exceed every 1,000 hours time-in-service, inspect the elevator inner hinges on the stabilizer following paragraphs A.1., A.2., and A.4. of Aircraft Industries, a.s. Mandatory Bulletin MB No.: L23/052a, dated March 2, 2010.

(3) If, as a result of the inspection required by paragraph (f)(1) or (f)(2) of this AD, you find any elevator inner hinge on the elevator is cracked or damaged, before further flight, replace it following paragraphs A.3. and A.4. of Aircraft Industries, a.s. Mandatory Bulletin MB No.: L23/052a, dated March 2, 2010.

## **FAA AD Differences**

Note: This AD differs from the MCAI and/or service information as follows: No differences.

## **Other FAA AD Provisions**

(g) The following provisions also apply to this AD:

(1) Alternative Methods of Compliance (AMOCs): The Manager, Standards Office, FAA, has the authority to approve AMOCs for this AD, if requested using the procedures found in 14 CFR 39.19. Send information to ATTN: Greg Davison, Aerospace Engineer, FAA, Small Airplane Directorate, 901 Locust, Room 301, Kansas City, Missouri 64106; telephone: (816) 329-4130; fax: (816) 329-4090. Before using any approved AMOC on any airplane to which the AMOC applies, notify your appropriate principal inspector (PI) in the FAA Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), or lacking a PI, your local FSDO.

(2) Airworthy Product: For any requirement in this AD to obtain corrective actions from a manufacturer or other source, use these actions if they are FAA-approved. Corrective actions are considered FAA-approved if they are approved by the State of Design Authority (or their delegated agent). You are required to assure the product is airworthy before it is returned to service.

(3) Reporting Requirements: For any reporting requirement in this AD, under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the information collection requirements and has assigned OMB Control Number 2120-0056.

## **Related Information**

(h) Refer to MCAI EASA Emergency AD No.: 2010-0037-E, dated March 8, 2010; and Aircraft Industries, a.s. Mandatory Bulletin MB No.: L23/052a, dated March 2, 2010, for related information.

## **Material Incorporated by Reference**

(h) You must use Aircraft Industries, a.s. Mandatory Bulletin MB No.: L23/052a, dated March 2, 2010, to do the actions required by this AD, unless the AD specifies otherwise.

(1) On April 26, 2010 (75 FR 17295, April 6, 2010), the Director of the Federal Register previously approved the incorporation by reference of Aircraft Industries, a.s. Mandatory Bulletin MB No.: L23/052a, dated March 2, 2010.

(2) For service information identified in this AD, contact Aircraft Industries, a.s.-  
Nazáhonech1177, 686 04 Kunovice, Czech Republic; telephone: +420 572 817 660; fax: +420 572 816 112; e-mail: ots@let.cz; Internet: <http://www.let.cz>.

(3) You may review copies of the service information incorporated by reference for this AD at the FAA, Central Region, Office of the Regional Counsel, 901 Locust, Kansas City, Missouri 64106. For information on the availability of this material at the Central Region, call (816) 329-3768.

(4) You may also review copies of the service information incorporated by reference for this AD at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call (202) 741-6030, or go to: [http://www.archives.gov/federal\\_register/code\\_of\\_federal\\_regulations/ibr\\_locations.html](http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html).

Issued in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 15, 2010.  
Kim Smith,  
Manager, Small Airplane Directorate,  
Aircraft Certification Service.